The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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CAN COAL OWNERS AGAIN SHIFT STRIKE BLAME TO MINERS?

Why should miners be held responsible for a possible coal strike?

Is the dollar so entrenched that facts are ignored by those who always talk of a "square deal?"

It is too much to expect, for instance, that anti-unionists, editorial parrots, citizen's alliance flag wavers and injunction judges will cease attacking the Mine Workers' union after they read that the United States geological survey reports that strikes are responsible for but one-tenth of the time lost in the mining industry in the past 20 years?

The aides and errand boys for privilege insist that mining is "charged with a public interest," and that this justifies injunctions and "can't-strike" laws. The errand boys do not demand that action be taken against coal owners, who are shown by a government bureau to be responsible for nine-tenths of the lost time in mining.

Associated with the present wage movement is the inevitable probe of miners' living costs. The most searching inquiry will be made by professional "snoopers" and statisticians who will consider that the miner, his wife and children have no privacy that an employer's agent or the public must respect.

This procedure is taken as a matter of course by the public. But what would happen if the miners insisted that the cry "No classes in America" be tested, and that coal owners be subjected to the same prying investigators?

What happens when an attempt is even made to ascertain the cost of producing a ton of coal?

The federal trade commission made this attempt but was stopped by an injunction, issued at the request of coal owners.

Only recently Mr. Frelinghuysen of New Jersey stated on the floor of the United States senate that it was impossible for any one—even the government—to ascertain the production cost of coal.

This fact is never mentioned by those who urge miners to be "careful" lest they lose public opinion.

Another fact ignored is the breaking of an agreement by coal owners in the central competitive field (western Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois). This is the "key" field for every bituminous wage movement. The manner in which this contract 'violation' is handled by would-be advisers of the miners is in contrast to their stern demand that the workers be "considerate of the rights of capital."

Let the miners be "cautious" say these well fed, well housed individuals who never saw a mine, who do not know that this industry exacts a toll of 200 lives every month, but who fear loss of inordinate profits if that grimy army comes up from its midnight work day and demands some of the things its advisers consider essential to life.

Why not abandon the talk of 'miners' strike and discuss a lockout by the coal owners.

The owners will not permit the government to ascertain their production costs; their profits have been referred to as 2,000 per cent by a former secretary of the treasury; their incompetency is recorded by a government bureau; and their gouging of the public has gone beyond all records.

When employes of these coal barons demand living conditions and cease work it is not a strike; it is a lockout.

The coal barons are responsible if the mining of coal ceases.

Their own friends convict them when they demand "can't-strike" laws on the ground that mining is "charged with a public interest."

If this is true, the coal barons should throw open their books and inform the public as to their profits and production costs.

That this point is not insisted on indicates the sincerity of those who talk about the public's welfare while attempting to destroy the efficiency of the United Mine Workers of America.

RAILROAD AND MINE WORKERS MAKE PLEDGES FOR FUTURE

Chicago, March 4.—At a conference in this city representatives of organized railroad employes, the railroad brotherhoods and organized longshoremen agreed to act jointly "to meet further wage reductions and additional changes in working conditions."

These representatives made no roseate promises to their members nor issued wild statements regarding general strikes that they cannot call—a fact that big business well knows.

Instead, caution marked the first conference of these workers toward federation and unity. The memorandum submitted to the various organizations for ratification makes no pledges and calls for no penalties. It is simply a ground work for new understandings between workers, and provides that where one group is attacked or threatened with attack, the others shall meet and consult on the best methods to assist.

An executive committee is created with authority to make recommendations from time to time on the needs of the new movement. The memorandum is as follows:

"Article I. The associated organizations represented in the transportation and mining industries of the country have been compelled to bear the brunt of unwarranted attacks upon their integrity and unjust and inequitable changes in their wage schedules and conditions of employment. The industrial and financial interests responsible for this condition are not yet satisfied and are conducting gigantic propaganda looking towards further wage reductions and additional changes in working conditions that will be detrimental to the people employed in these industries. It, therefore, becomes necessary for the representatives of the associated organizations to assemble and take cognizance of this situation. Impelled by the necessity of effecting a co-ordination of our strength we declare for closer co-operation of our forces which will operate to more effectively protect the interests of those engaged in these essential and basic industries. After mature deliberation, and with a full sense of our responsibility, we declare that the mutuality of interests of the employes in these basic industries must be recognized and we assert our purpose to apply every honorable method to secure adequate compensation for service rendered and to maintain proper American standards of living.

"Article II. When it becomes apparent that any one, or group of the associated organizations, is made the victim of unwarranted attacks, or its integrity is jeopardized, it will become the duty of the representatives of each of the associated organizations to assemble to consider the situation. Ways and means may then be considered and applied to best meet the emergency. Action taken under this section is subject to approval by each organization represented.

"Article III. To facilitate the conduct of the business of the associated organizations an executive committee is hereby created composed of the chief executives of the associated organizations, or their specifically designated representatives. It shall be the duty of the executive committee from time to time to make such recommendations to the associated organizations as may in its judgment be deemed wise and to assemble the full conference of associated organizations when conditions make such action necessary.

"Article IV. This plan shall become operative when ratified by the constitutional authorities of each associated organization."

'RECOGNIZE MEXICO," SAYS A. F. OF L. CHIEF

Washington, March 4.—"Americans who are not prejudiced one way or another by a desire to get possession of Mexican natural resources upon the most favorable terms and conditions, are coming more and more to the conclusion that there has been something more than diplomacy at work in the relations between the two countries," says President Gompers, writing in American Federationist, current issue, on the justice of Mexico's claim for recognition by the United States.

"It is a fact beyond dispute that American capitalists have sought to shape the policy of the United States in such a manner as to bring to American investors the largest possible return. When these investors felt that intervention in Mexico would be a good thing for them, they were for intervention. More recently it evidently has been their conviction that by attempting to retard the granting of recognition they could wring larger concessions and more favorable investment terms from the Mexican government.

"It is quite possible that the complete story of the intrigues of American bankers, American oil interests and American investors and would-be investors in Mexican mineral, land and timber resources, will never be known. Sufficient is known, however, to make certain the fact that the amount of intrigue has been much larger than that of which we have knowledge.

"By all of the standards of government in the diplomatic recognition of one nation by another, Mexico is entitled to recognition as an act of justice. Absolutely the only persons who can conceivably derive advantage from the continued withholding of recognition are certain American bankers who hope to drive a better bargain with Mexico by creating in Mexico the impression that they have some influence in determining the matter of recognition. For everyone else, whether Mexican or American, the advantage lies in granting immediate recognition."

STOCK EXCHANGE BIG GAMBLE PLAN

Palm Beach, Fla., March 4.—The New York stock exchange has been a veritable gambling den where insiders with "marked cards" play the game against the outside public, said Samuel Untermyer, New York attorney, in referring to the investigation of small brokers in that city.

"The stock exchange is bigger than any aggregation of banks and trust companies, and yet it is unsupervised.

"Year after year the public is swindled out of hundreds of millions of dollars and so it will continue until the New York legislature can overcome the influences of Wall street to give some measure of protection to the unprotected investor.

"All stock exchanges and boards of trade should be regulated by law and their affairs periodically examined.

"The stock exchange, by an announcement from its rostrum, can put a member out of business in 10 seconds with all the misery that this implies to the thousands of customers of the member, and nobody has any redress or right to question or review its action in or out of court. Nowhere on earth is there such uncontrolled power."

CITY COURTS ASSAILED.

New York, March 4.—Municipal courts in certain sections of this city fall far short of giving justice to poor litigants, according to the annual report of the legal aid society.

These alleged "poor man's courts" are not living up to their reputation, it is stated, because of the arbitrary action of clerks and marshals on whom the successful litigant depends for the collection of his judgment.

"When a person seeking justice has established his right in a court of law and then finds that he is no better off than when he started, having a judgment that no one will bother to collect, his respect for law receives a rude shock," says the report.

"In suing for small amounts loss of time is a fact which the litigant must seriously consider. Most of the judges lose sight of this consideration. They grant adjournments recklessly against all objections."

OLD UNIONIST DIES.

Boston, March 4.—James O'Connor, for more than 40 years a member of the Plasterers' union, died in this city. He represented Local No. 10 at every convention of the plasterers' international association for 30 years and in the 90s held the office of both general president and secretary-treasurer.

PERE MARQUETTE EARNINGS.

New York, March 4.—The Pere Marquette railroad, for the 11 months ended November 30, shows a surplus of $3,502,482, after taxes and interest. This compares with a surplus of $1,392,372 for the 12 months ending December 21, 1920.

CONGRESS IS CALLOUS UNEMPLOYMENT GROWS

New York, March 4.—Unemployment grows and congress indicates its callous indifference by defeating the Kenyon unemployment bill, says Max D. Danish, managing editor of Justice, official magazine of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union.

"In one church unemployment bureau in New York city 7,500 ex-service men registered since last September, are still out of work, and the effort to reindustralize the former soldiers is not making any progress," says the labor editor.

"And in the light of these staggering facts comes the announcement from Washington that the Kenyon unemployment bill has been killed in the senate, after an amendment had been adopted which practically destroyed the measure. It will be remembered that the provisions of the Kenyon bill were drafted from recommendations of the much-heralded Harding conference on unemployment. These provisions were designed to make possible long-range planning of all public works. The amendment which emasculated it exempted from the bill all river and harbor developments, flood and expenditures on irrigation projects, after which it was sent back to the committee on labor to die a peaceful death.

"We never expected much from the unemployment conference. Nevertheless, even skeptics had thought that the Kenyon bill, which intended to release considerable funds for the construction of public works in slack times, would be adopted in an effort to afford some relief to the millions of destitute unemployed. The heartless slaughter of the Kenyon bill is but an additional index of the utter callousness and brutal indifference which the present congress has maintained right along towards the idle working masses of the country."

"Can't-Strike" Law Opposed by Governor

Albany, N. Y., March 4.—Labor's vigorous protests against handcuff legislation have been heard in the executive offices and Governor Miller now denounces the "can't-strike" plans that are being considered by the state legislature. In a public statement the governor says:

"One of the fundamental objections to the bills, as the matter appears to me, is that they undertake to set up a judicial machinery to adjudicate on questions which I do not think are subjects of adjudication; for example, the question of wages. That is a matter of contract. It can't properly be made the matter of judicial determination, according to any settled or known principles of law.

"I doubt very much that the state can undertake, for example, to compel people to work for less wages than they are willing to work for, and I do not think that a judicial tribunal can adjudicate the kind of questions which must necessarily be left to contract.

"What the state can properly do, it seems to me, in the way of helping in the settlement of industrial disputes, is along the line of endeavoring to secure fair dealing to prevent abuses; to, as far as it can, set up machinery for mediation and arbitration, and I think that perhaps the greatest thing it can do is to secure exact information of the facts involved in these disputes, so that the public may know what the facts are."

TRUST NOT SMASHED.

Washington, March 4.—Two years ago Attorney General Palmer announced that he had smashed the meat trust—or, rather, that the meat trust agreed to dissolve by signing a pledge that it would release control of related products, such as groceries, etc.

Now it is found that the packers have not fulfilled their agreement and they are trying to have the agreement modified.

It is charged that a far west fruit growers' association, which is urging a modification, is controlled by the packers.

The agreement has also resulted in permitting the packers to escape prosecution under the Sherman anti-trust law, as charged by the federal trade commission two years ago. The offenses are now outlawed under the statutes of limitation.

DEATHS IN MINES.

Washington, March 4.—Coal mine accidents during January caused the loss of 146 lives, as against 197 fatalities during the same month last year, reports the federal bureau of mines.

During the past nine years (1913-1921) the month of January has shown an average of 50,424,000 tons of coal mined and a loss of 202 lives.

STATE BUILDERS TO MEET.

San Francisco, March 4. — The twenty-second annual convention of the state building trades council will convene in this city on Monday, March 20. P. H. McCarthy, who has been president for all these years, announces that he will not be a candidate for re-election.

"Hostility To Wage Earners' Cause Will Be Met By Independent Action"

—President Gompers

Washington, March 4.—Organized labor is called upon by the A. F. of L. executive council to prepare to go into the primary elections everywhere. Where necessary, labor will place candidates in the field.

This decision is included in the executive council's instructions to labor's national non-partisan political campaign committee to begin preparations for the coming congressional and other elections and primaries. In a public statement President Gompers said:

"Under the action of the executive council, and in conformity with A. F. of L. convention action, it is proposed to go into the primary elections everywhere to make certain that candidates favorable to the rights and interests of the workers are nominated. Labor will place such candidates in the field wherever necessary. There is unanimity upon this point among the workers.

"It need occasion no surprise if there are in many districts candidates placed in the field by labor as the direct result of antagonistic attitudes on the part of candidates in both republican and democratic parties.

"In the opinion of labor the present political and economic situation makes imperative the most energetic political action. No draft of a program of political necessities will be made prior to the meeting of the campaign committee, but it is certain that emphasis will be placed on certain outstanding issues which cannot be evaded by any one. Among these will doubtless be:

"Unemployment, relief program, navy yards' dismissals, injunctions, taxes, anti-union crusade, agriculture, compulsory tribunals, anti-conspiracy laws, transportation.

"It is gratifying to know that state labor organizations are preparing for the coming campaign. Illinois has been particularly active in making early preparations, its plans having been made in a meeting held on February 11. Attention is called to the vitally important fact that there is no active group in American labor that has not fully agreed with the A. F. of L.'s political program and policies.

"There is a striking unity of determination as to the lines to be followed and the tactics to be pursued. There is every indication that this unity will be the means of eliminating from public life a great many who have served the interests in servile submission and who have been blind to the great needs of the times."

Let Bankers Pay Bonus From Huge War Profits

Washington, March 4.—"As the money magnates with their affiliated banks have made practically all the profits out of the war, they should be made to pay the bonus to the soldiers who won the war," said Senator Ladd, in discussing methods to raise money for the soldiers' bonus.

The North Dakota law maker declared that the banking interests, through the American banking association, is lining up the United States chamber of commerce and the industrial trusts "to defeat the soldiers' bonus or to put it upon the taxpayers who can least afford to pay it.

"If a real investigation were made," said Senator Ladd, "it would show that the investment bankers of the financial centers of this country have made more than $20,000,000,000 out of this war, as shown by their increase in assets, capital stock, surplus, dividends and other profits, which should be taxed back into the treasury.

"There is no question as to the banks having made unheard of profits during the war and they should be made to disgorge."

"Equality" Plan Would Aid Bosses

Washington, March 4.—The A. F. of L. executive council has approved the declaration made by President Gompers in opposition to the so-called blanket amendment to the federal constitution, proposed by the national women's party, which would nullify all laws that do not apply with equal force to both sexes.

"Lawyers who say the courts would not sustain attacks on women's protecting laws may to some extent know the courts, but they do not know employers. I think I know something about courts, and I do know the tactics of employers," said President Gompers.

"If such a blanket amendment, placing women on an absolute equality with men, were to be adopted and ratified the employers of the country would not attack the various state laws in the courts. They would proceed at once to operate under the amendment. That is where lawyers misjudge the employers. Employers would not go into court. They would remain in their shops and factories, put strict equality of hours and working conditions into effect and then, if the workers were able they might go into court to try to compel the employers to restore the safeguards of the state laws protecting women.

"Eventually, after many years, these cases would get to the supreme court, if the workers were able to go that far, but meanwhile the beneficient, hard-won laws would be destroyed under the blanket, strictly equality amendment proposed by the national women's party."

CHEERS FOR IGLESIAS.

San Juan, Porto Rico, March 4. —It was, comparatively speaking, but yesterday, that Santiago Iglesias was jailed in Porto Rico for pleading the cause of the workers. Today, on his return from Washington where he defended Porto Rico and its workers, he is given "the great reception ever accorded to a home-coming islander," according to the San Juan Times.

Iglesias is a Porto Rican senator, A. F. of L. organizer and executive of the Porto Rican trade unionists. He is leading the fight against monarchists who would re-establish their ideals in this island and he has aroused Porto Ricans to the danger confronting them.

When he arrived in this city from Washington he was greeted by delegations from every city and village in the island. The city was decorated for the occasion and he was almost carried through the streets by workers whom he has battled for in days less favorable to the cause of organized labor.

WANT SHODDY ADVERTISED.

Trenton, N. J., March 4.—Senator White has introduced a bill in the state legislature which would require the percentage of wool to be labeled in every piece of cloth.

Advocates of this legislation have urged congress to enact this plan into a federal law. They show that much so-called pure wool cloth consists of shoddy, worked over five and six times, with just enough virgin wool to hold it together.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE UPHELD.

Washington, March 4.—In two decisions, based mainly on technicalities, the United States supreme court has upheld the equal suffrage amendment to the federal constitution. One of the suffrage appellants was Charles S. Fairchild of New York, former secretary of the treasury and president of the association opposed to woman suffrage.

U. S. Commerce Board Can Fix State Rates

Washington, March 4.—The United States supreme court has ruled that the interstate commerce commission can regulate railroad rates on state as well as interstate railroads.

The decision upholds the Cummins-Esch act, which takes from states the right to set rates for railroads within the state. This portion of the act, has been protested by practically every state railroad commission as a denial of state rights.

Chief Justice Taft read the decision of the court. He said that "commerce is a unit and does not regard state lines."

Railroad managers and financiers are in high glee over the decision, which sweeps from state authorities all power heretofore held to set rates on small railroads running within a state.

The decision may also affect labor by giving a federal scope to cases that are now treated as state cases. This estimate is based on the court's decision that "commerce is a unit and does not regard state lines."

DETROIT GETS TROLLEYS.

Detroit, March 4.—Stockholders of the local street car company have accepted the city's offer of $19,500,000 for its entire city system. The decision of the stockholders ends a battle that started over a quarter of a century ago by Mayor Pingree. A special election will be called for April 15 to have the people vote on the purchase proposal. City officials predict that the proposal will be adopted. Sixty per cent of the votes cast must be in the affirmative.

THIS ROAD NOT BROKE.

New York, March 4.—A preliminary report by the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western railroad shows that the 1921 net income, before dividends were paid, was $19,158,403, compared with $14,658,444 in 1920.

"Can't-Strike" Law Is Based on Serfdom

New York, March 4.—That the Kansas "can't-strike" law is based on the theory that labor is a commodity was indicated very clearly by Judge Huggins of the Kansas court of industrial relations, in explaining the workings of the law to business men in this city.

The speaker said that the chief legal principle of the Kansas law was stated by Sir Mathew Hale, of England, about 260 years ago, who wrote that the charges for use of the king's wharf "must not be exorbitant, but must be fair and reasonable, because the wharf is impressed with a public interest and is no longer a matter of private right only."

It will be noticed that Judge Huggins goes back to the times when no one doubted the legality or morality of holding workers in serfdom.

ANNUAL INCOME COUNTS.

Toledo, Ohio, March 4.—It is the annual income that counts, said Sanford E. Thompson, who told a group of factory executives that seasonal employments which keep workers only two-thirds of the year means 50 per cent higher labor cost than if the industries run full time.

A man must live and eat and wear clothes when he is idle, said the speaker, who was a member of the Hoover committee on the elimination of waste.

MILL GUARDS HELD.

Steubenville, Ohio, March 4. — Two mill guards employed by the Wheeling steel corporation at Yorkville have been held without bail on a first degree murder charge because of the death of Elmer Cost, a union picket.

The strikers are members of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers. They are resisting wage cuts.

Editor Has Subtle Defense For Coal Owners

New York, March 4.—The blue ribbon can be awarded the New York Times for its subtle defense of coal owners in western Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois who broke their agreement with mine employes.

The Times says that the recent meeting of miners, railroad employes and longshoremen is a triple alliance "with its unblushing threat of tying up 'essential' utilities and 'basic' industries." No representative of these organizations made such threat, but that is of little moment to the Times, which gives this illustration of how "public opinion" is molded:

"In the soft coal industry the situation is far from satisfactory and further still from being clear. An agreement to confer was signed in 1920, but the operators claim, on rather shadowy grounds, that it has since been superseded. In ordinary circumstances there should be a conference, agreement or no agreement. But the circumstances are very far from ordinary. If the unionized fields are to compete with the non-unionized fields, it is manifestly necessary to reduce wages and increase production; yet the miners demand a continuance of the wartime wage and in addition a six-hour day and a five-day week. It is true that these demands were carried by radicals in the face of a protest from more substantial and experienced leaders. But that does not alter the fact that the radicals are in the saddle. Their influence was again in evidence in the recent formation of the 'triple alliance,' which its unblushing threat of tying up 'essential' utilities and 'basic' industries. These measures were apparently intended to intimidate the enemy, but their only effect has been to alienate friends. In the early stages of the present agitation the miners had good hope of enlisting the national administration in the final settlement; but in face of the hollow threat of the triple alliance, Secretary Hoover gave them the cold shoulder and hope of help from Washington is dead. In labor strife, as in actual warfare, there are situations in which conference is no longer possible."

SCHOOLS MUST MEET CHANGED CONDITIONS

Washington, March 4.—"Changed social and industrial conditions demand changes in the schools," says the United States bureau of education in a survey of Elizabeth City, N. C., schools.

"Fifty years ago the environment of the average boy and girl furnished an education in wholesome activities that developed intelligence, initiative and industrious habits. But during the past half century has come the growth of the modern city, until now half the population of the country is concentrated in cities, and the city with its overcrowding, its mills and factories, and office buildings, which gradually grow up on the vacant lots, is depriving children of the opportunity for the healthy, wholesome work and play which are essential elements in their education.

"The city home, whether in a large or small city, is very unlike the farm with its many necessities for 'learning by doing.' It offers great educational opportunities in the way of healthful work which develops the ability to think by attacking problems to be solved. There is no planting or harvesting to be done; few if any animals to be taken care of, and it is a rare city home that has a workshop or laboratory. Yet, children until recently have received much of their education through the opportunity to handle tools, to take care of animals and to experiment in making and using things. But the city not only fails to educate children in the right direction; it educates them in the wrong direction, for the street, with its dangers to the physical and moral life of the children too often becomes their only playground. And street plays means education not in health and strength and wholesome living, but precocious education in all the vicious side of a city's life.

"For these reasons it has come to be recognized that the city school must not only supply the opportunity for study in good class rooms under wholesome conditions, but it must also return to the children the opportunity for the helpful work and play which the home can no longer supply."

LAWYERS' CLOSED SHOP URGED BY JUSTICE TAFT

Washington, March 4.—The national conference of bar associations, at their meeting in this city, adopted the recommendation of the American bar association that future members of the bar be required to have at least two years' college education in addition to their regular law school work.

Chief Justice Taft stepped from the supreme court of the United States to urge this exclusiveness. Justice Taft said incompetents were being admitted to their union; and that the country has too many lawyers. Elihu Root, former secretary of state, took the same position. He said there were some members of the lawyers' union "who were incapable of performing the duties of a lawyer."

The resolution met some opposition. It was shown that Chief Justice Marshall of the United States supreme court and some of the nation's greatest lawyers and statesmen had little legal training, and that two years in college will not solve the question of quality, although it will create a college caste.

SAVIORS STRIKE CANADA.

Toronto, Ontario, March 4.—The crowd that launched the Workers' party of America in New York recently, moved over to this city and have launched the Workers' party of Canada.

The same tactics were used in both places—these saviors advise that their disguises be continued until some dark, rainy night when the capitalists ain't lookin'. Then the communists will let out a war whoop, assemble the clans and set up a proletarian dictatorship.

The thing is so easy that some of the delegates marveled that it hasn't been doped out before. The revolutionists insisted that their disguise must be perfect, if they are to succeed. This caution was stressed by Delegate J. Kavanagh, of Winnipeg, who said: "We would like to have come out as a communist party, but that might not be in our interest in the east."

The sponsors for the new party were former advocates of the one big union, which makes way for the new toy.

COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS.

Washington, March 4.—On February 1, this year, there were 4,203,614 barrels of apples in cold storage, according to the department of agriculture.

Other holdings were: Butter, 36,000,000 pounds; cheese, 23,000,000 pounds; frozen poultry, 103,000,000 pounds; meats, frozen and cured, 620,953,956 pounds; lard, 60,000,000 pounds.

RENT GOUGERS PAY LESS.

Charleston, W. Va., March 4.—Rent gougers in this city have joined with contractors in an effort to cut wages of building craftsmen 25 per cent. The rent gougers do not realize that their position will make it impossible for workers to meet present rent raises.

Unionists Are Urged To Defy Injunctions

Washington, March 4.—Reaffirming its attitude toward labor injunctions, the A. F. of L. executive council again called on workers to ignore such writs.

"The only possible and practical remedy in the face of a power so usurped and so completely unjustified," the resolution declares, "lies in a flat refusal on the part of labor to recognize or abide by the terms of the injunction which seeks to prohibit the doing of acts which the workers have a lawful and guaranteed right to refuse to do.

"This is the only course through which labor can find relief, and this course it purposes to pursue."

Kentucky Is Staging Another Homestead

Newport, Ky., March 4.—Pennsylvania staged the first Homestead strike in 1892. Thirty years later Kentucky is now staging the second Homestead strike at this place against the same union, for the same causes and under the same conditions.

In 1892 Carnegie & Co. started a war against the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers. The Newport rolling mill company and the Andrews steel company are behind the second Homestead.

The first Homestead was featured by Pinkertons, militia, and martial law. The second Homestead is being waged along modern lines. The militia, martial law, and prohibition of meetings are augmented by injunctions and "baby" armored tanks that assisted in making the world safe for democracy. The militia has its headquarters in company offices.

The employers have been blocked in their attempt to divide the workers, who have refused an offer that the skilled workers be recognized and the unskilled by given a company "union."

The militia has arrested the mayor, chief of police and county judge because of their sympathies with the strikers. The mayor headed a delegation of 1,000 citizens who called on the militia to leave the city. Since then these officials were arrested.

The community has been terrorized by the gun men since last July, when the strike started. The turmoil can be traced directly to the steel companies' demand for the anti-union shop.

RAIL BOARD CUTS PAY.

Chicago, March 4.—The United States railroad labor board has included 10,000 stationary firemen and oilers in its policy of extending the 10-hour day on railroads.

Formerly these workers were paid time and one-half after eight hours. Hereafter overtime will not apply until the tenth hour. The board also sets up a "split trick" of eight hours within a spread of 12 hours, without overtime pay.

The board's new rules supplant the national agreement made in January, 1920, during the period of federal control.

URGE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

Chicago, March 4.—"We must find some way to stop wholesale withdrawals from school," said Dr. Franklin P. Graves, New York educator, in an address in this city.

"It is intolerable," he said, "that 30 per cent of our young people should drop out before they are 14, and 60 per cent before they have completed the eighth grade. Our compulsory attendance laws and the dragnets necessary to enforce them must be greatly strengthened in most of our states."

UNEMPLOYMENT WORSE.

New York, March 4.—William H. Matthews of the association for improving the condition of the poor says that the unemployment situation among people with whom he deals—mostly heads of families—is worse than it has been at any time during the year.

Mr. Matthews says many of the men who are getting jobs the society has furnished "are up against it for the first time in their lives."

RHODE ISLAND OWNED BY TEXTILE BARONS

Providence, R. I., March 4.—The present strike of textile workers is both a protest against wage reductions and the feudalism of mill owners in this state.

Rhode Island is owned by the textile interests through their control of the state senate. This body is composed of one senator from every city and town without regard to population. The senate can be controlled by 20 members who represent less than 8 per cent of the population. The senate can elect substitutes in place of the governor's nominees for certain state offices. If the senate does not like the governor's nomination for state commissioner of labor it can elect one. The same is true of factory inspector, and of every other law and administrator of law that has the remotest bearing on the textile industry.

The state labor board is appointed through the grace of the senate. This board appoints the board of mediation and conciliation. One writer in a New York newspaper recently summed up the textile strike thusly:

"The Rhode Island textile industry has no money to pay its workers a standard wage, but it has money to buy the elections in 20 or more Rhode Island towns and to maintain a costly political machine which corrupts the voters in the small representative districts into which the cities are divided. The whole spirit of the governing class in Rhode Island is the spirit of autocracy and it manifests itself in an emphatic manner in the textile strike and in a multitude of instances inconspicuous in themselves."

Deflating Labor; Ignore Big Profits

New York, March 4.—"It may be that the miners are receiving larger incomes than they need in the anthracite region, though no statistics have been advanced to prove that contention and the operators have been careful to withhold from the public any figures which might make it possible to calculate the relation of wages to profits," says the New York World. "But the anthracite coal consumers' corporation has decided after an investigation that the freight rate on coal should be $1.21 instead of $2.61 a ton, and Senator Frelinghuysen has called the attention of the senate to profits of 170 per cent on the books of the Reading coal and iron company for 1920. The Lehigh and Wilkes-Barre coal company turned over a cash dividend of 150 per cent to its stockholders less than a year ago. Other large corporations in the hard-coal field have done equally well."

TIMBER GOING FAST.

Atlantic City, N. J., March 4.—The conservation of forest lands is the most serious economic problem with which this country has to deal, said Gifford Pinchot, commissioner for forestry of Pennsylvania.

"Unless some drastic measure looking to the curtailment of the devastation of privately owned forest land is taken, the timber land of the whole United States will have become exhausted within 25 years. How serious is the situation in this country can best be judged by the fact that five-sixths of the virgin forests have been obliterated. Unfortunately, four-fifths of the remaining acreage is in the hands of privately owned landlords, who must be curtailed by proper laws from devastating their lands."

WON'T ACCEPT COSSACKS.

Baltimore, March 4.—Organized labor's opposition to the cossack system has alarmed the backers of this plan who are urging the state legislature to adopt it. Suggestions of amendments to the bill are answered with an emphatic "No" by the unionists, who declare that no amendment will be acceptable.

WILL MEET IN CLEVELAND.

New York, March 4.—By a referendum of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union, Cleveland has been selected as the next convention city. The convention will convene on Monday, May 1.